

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 2-3, 6-8, and 13, CANCEL claim 1, and ADD new claim 16 in accordance with the following:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) The record medium according to ~~claim 1, claim 13,~~ wherein the group generating determines a number of data packets included in each group according to a state of a communication line or delivery destination.

3. (Currently Amended) The record medium according to ~~claim 1, claim 13,~~ wherein ~~said the group generating unit~~ determines a total amount of data included in each data packet included in each group according to a state of a communication line or delivery destination.

Claims 4-5 (Canceled).

6. (Currently Amended) The record medium according to ~~claim 1, claim 13,~~ further comprising measuring a congestion state of a system based on time needed for accessing a memory and a state of load on a processor.

7. (Currently Amended) The record medium according to ~~claim 1, claim 13,~~ further comprising redelivering a previously delivered data packet when one of the delivery destinations has reported that the data packet could not be received.

8. (Currently Amended) A multicast delivery method for delivering information from a computer to a plurality of delivery destinations, comprising:

generating groups including at least one data packet from a group of data packets to be delivered;

determining a number of times each of the groups is delivered; should be transmitted repetitively before the delivery destinations respond to the delivery, the number of times being greater than one; and

repeating delivery of each of the groups generated by the group generating step as many times as specified by said determining;

specifying a number of delivery destinations to which data is delivered;

estimating a processing time required for the computer to process each single response which the delivery destinations are supposed to send back to the computer upon receipt of each group of packets;

calculating a total response processing time in proportion to the estimated processing time per response and the number of delivery destinations; and

delivering control information including the total response processing time, from the computer to the delivery destinations so that the delivery destinations will send back a response to the computer at a randomly selected timing within the total response processing time after each group of data packets are received.

Claims 9-12 Canceled.

13. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable record medium storing a program that when executed controls a computer to perform a multicast process of delivering information to a plurality of delivery destinations, said process comprising:

generating groups including at least one data packet from a given set of data packets to be delivered;

determining a number of times each of the groups is delivered;

repeating delivery of each of the groups as many times as specified by said determining;

specifying a number of delivery destinations to which data is delivered;

estimating a processing time required for the computer to handle process each single response [[from]] which the delivery destinations are supposed to send back to the computer upon receipt of each group of packets;

calculating a total response processing time in proportion to the estimated processing time per response and the number of delivery destinations; and

delivering control information including the total response processing time, from the computer to the delivery destinations so that the delivery destinations will respond send back a response to the computer at a randomly selected timing within the total response processing

time after each group of data packets are received.

14. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable record medium according to claim 13, further comprising repetitively delivering the groups before the delivery destinations respond to delivery.

15. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable record medium according to claim 14, wherein a number of times each of the groups generated by the group generating unit is delivered is greater than one.

16. (New) The computer-readable record medium according to claim 13, wherein the estimating determines the processing time per response, based on measurement of processing load of the computer.